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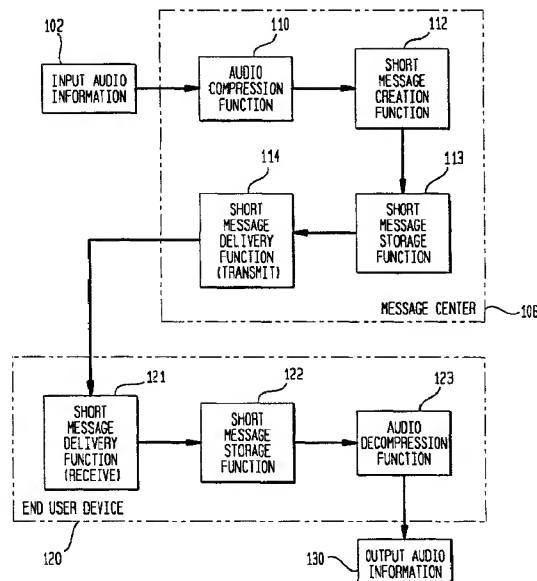
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(54) Using discrete message-oriented services to deliver short audio communications

(57) Delivery of short audio communications to remote end user devices uses discrete message-oriented service messages for delivery of the audio messages. Audio information is captured, encoded by means of audio compression technology, and stored at a message center. Alternatively, the audio information may be stored in an uncompressed format and compressed immediately before delivery. The compressed audio information is transmitted by means of Short Message Service or another discrete message-oriented service to the end user device, where it is decompressed and played to the recipient. Message delivery can be accomplished in parallel with some other ongoing activity at the end user device. If the audio information is too large to be contained in a single Short Message, segmentation and reassembly techniques commonly known in the art are applied to break the information into segments. At the end user device, the Short Message can be stored until the end user listens to the audio information. The intervening network can be a radio link, the Internet, or some other network. The invention may also be utilized by a mobile user to send short audio messages to a message center and/or a second end user device.

FIG. 1



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Y	* column 3, line 4 - column 7, line 39 * * column 10, line 16 - column 12 * * figures 2,3 *	5, 10, 11, 14, 18, 21	
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A	WO 96 05691 A (MOTOROLA INC) 22 February 1996 (1996-02-22) * page 1, line 30 - page 2, line 37 * * page 4, line 5 - page 9, line 26 * * figures *	1-21	
A	US 5 754 946 A (GARAHY MASOOD ET AL) 19 May 1998 (1998-05-19) * column 5, line 19-44 * * column 13, line 60 - column 15, line 5 * * column 31, line 62 - column 32 * * figures 6, 13-16 *	1, 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 13, 15-17, 20	H04Q
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		27 October 2000	Psatha, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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